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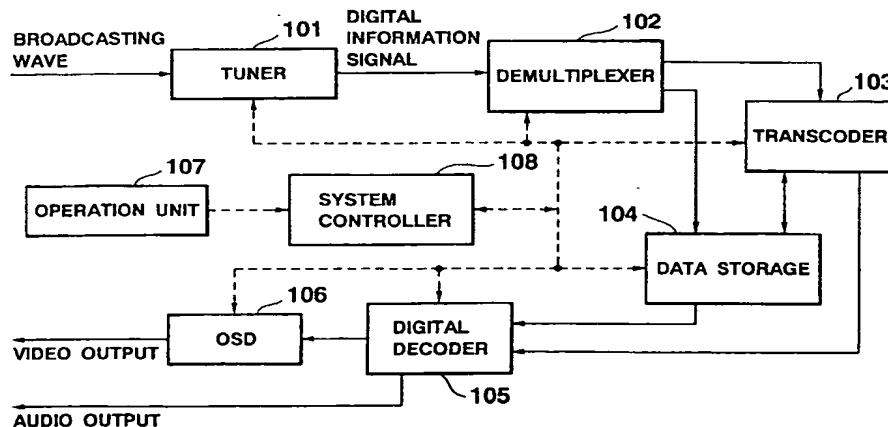
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(54) **Image quality confirmation apparatus and method, and recording medium recording program therefor**

(57) An image quality confirmation apparatus includes a random accessible stream recording medium, transcoder, decoder, image quality presentation unit, and operation unit. The random accessible stream recording medium stores a digital stream. The transcoder recompresses the digital stream with a predetermined compression parameter to generate a new digital stream. The decoder expands the new digital stream generated by the transcoder to decode it into video and audio signals. The image quality presentation unit presents the image quality of the new digital stream to the user. The operation unit causes the user to select a

desired image quality based on the image quality displayed by the image quality presentation unit. The image quality presentation unit recompresses a designated digital stream with different predetermined compression parameters using the transcoder to generate a plurality of new digital streams, and lays out, plays back, and displays the plurality of new digital streams and the digital stream before recompression on a screen using the decoder to cause the user to select a desired image quality with the operation unit. An image quality confirmation method and recording medium are also disclosed.

FIG. 1
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Application Number
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 30 September 2002	Examiner Beaudet, J-P
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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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